

B) AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Applicants submit the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph of the Specification commencing on page 14, line 20 thereof, and concluding at page 15, line 25, in which the sentence commencing at page 15, line 11 has been amended:

— The operator of the relevant service network, e.g. service network 152 in FIG. 1, may desire to maintain a separate registration server, e.g. server 155 in FIG. 1, and to retain responsibility for user authentication and authorization. The service activation system 160 can provide a proxy server configured to permit HTTP traffic only between local hosts and registration server 155 in service network 152. The service provider operating service network 152 would then be responsible for providing the appropriate registration information required for proper service selection to the service activation system 160. In this event, the service provider would also be responsible for notifying the service activation system 160 when service should be discontinued to the particular user. Alternatively, the DHCP server 161 in the service activation system 160 can interact with the registration server 155 using a back-end authentication protocol, e.g. the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS). See C. Rigney, A. Rubens, W. Simpson, S. Willens, "Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS)," IETF Network Working Group, RFC 2058 (January 1997), which is incorporated by reference herein. The DHCP server can contain a RADIUS client and, thereby, leverage the large RADIUS embedded base used for dial access authentication. FIG. 7 illustrates this embodiment of this aspect of the invention in a flowchart corresponding to the flowchart shown in FIG. 5. At 903, the DHCP server 920 generates a random challenge and includes the challenge along with the allocated IP address in the DHCP OFFER message. The DHCP client 910 generates a response to the challenge by encrypting the challenge with a key that is derived from the subscriber's authentication information. At 904, the client 910 includes the challenge, response, and IP address in the DHCP REQUEST message. The DHCP server 920 forwards both the challenge and response in a RADIUS\_ACCESS\_REQ message to a RADIUS server 930 in the selected service network. The RADIUS server 930 either accepts or rejects the RADIUS request and responds accordingly at 906. If the RADIUS request is accepted, the DHCP server 920 sends a

DHCPACK message at 907 and the client 910 enters a bound state. If the RADIUS request is rejected, the DHCP server 920 sends a DHCPNACK message which informs the client 910 that the IP address that was allocated has been withdrawn. --